Airport at Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh

†1495. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal regarding construction of airport at Pasighat in Arunachai Pradesh is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the reasons for which this proposal is lying pending for years; and

(c) by when the action will be taken on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There is an existing airstrip at Pasighat which belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI). It is presently non-operational and is not fit for any fixed wing aircraft operation. No airline has so far requested to develop this airstrip for operation of ATR-42/72 type of aircraft. The State Government of Arunachai Pradesh had suggested an alternate site for construction of new greenfield airport. On inspection of the site, it was not found technically and operationally suitable for a new airport.

Restriction on concessions to senior citizens

1496.SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Air Sahara have put restrictions on domestic travel concession to senior citizens that ticket must be booked two days in advance with a minimum two nights stay at destination in case of round trips and minimum two nights stay at each intermediate point in case of circle trip journey;

(b) whether prior to July, 2003 such restrictions did not exit;

(c) whether Government have received representations against these restrictions as they defeat the purpose of concession to senior citizens; and

(d) if so, by when Government would make the Airlines withdraw these conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have the requirement of two nights stay, while in case of Indian Airlines the requirement is three nights stay. Only Sahara Airlines require two days

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.